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No. 1

FLOWER MISSIONS AND THEIR WORK.

(Continued from last month.)



WHO of our readers could possibly read the opening part of this article, which appeared last month, without a tear, unconscious perhaps, mingled with a desire to aid in the good work. There is undoubtedly somebody or some place near by your own home. If you do not know of one, inquire.

A lady who sometimes passed the arches on the New York side of the Brooklyn Bridge had noticed the children with their tin cans, picking up the oats and corn from the ground. The wide arches are favorite halting places for truckmen, the cool breeze sweeping through the roadways making a pleasant lunching ground for men, as well as for tired and overheated teams. On one occasion sparrows and children disputed and scrambled for the grain. The youngsters were bright looking, fairly well dressed, and seemed unusually intelligent and well behaved. The lady called one of the largest girls to her, and learned the story of the cans and their contents. She was promised something better, and soon the entire group was gathered about the stranger, who opened a large parcel which she had brought. In a row on the curbstone she ranged the little ones, then took from its last wrapping a great bunch of the most beautiful flowers that ever delighted childish eyes. And the chorus of "Oh!" and "Ah!" and exclamations and little screams of enthusiasm which were heard over the great poppies, as double as snowballs and of all possible poppy colors, the orange, maroon, yellow, and purple nasturtiums, the sweet peas, roses, mignonette, salvia, and geranium!

Every little hand was filled with such beauties as it had never held before. A big boy who came by and looked longingly at the flowers had a bunch of blooms; a man who appeared tired and jaded asked for a bit of rose geranium, and went away with a nosegay of some of the choicest flowers in the parcel. Words of delight, thanks, and appreciation were spoken over and over again, and the manager of this independent flower mission wondered if the children found half as much pleasure in receiving as she did in giving them.

But street distribution has sometimes an unpleasant side. Some years

ago an experiment in this line was tried which was not altogether satisfactory to some of the interested parties. An ordinary express wagon was filled with potted plants and driven to one of the slum quarters of the city. From the rear of the wagon a man attempted to give out the plants, selecting from the crowd women and children who seemed to care the most for them. For the first half dozen given out, all went well; but soon a band of young ruffians gathered about the vehicle and began fighting for place as well as pots. Several of the finest plants were destroyed, and, in spite of the efforts of the driver and the distributor to keep order, there was soon a small but full-fledged and determined mob whose intention it was to get possession of those plants, let the consequences be what they might. So great was the danger, not only of destroying the plants, but of injuring the little ones who gathered about, that at a signal from one of the ladies who had come down to witness the distribution and enjoy the pleasure of the little ones, the driver put his horses into a run, the man at the rear of the wagon holding on for dear life. One young rascal, more venturesome than his fellows, clung for a moment to the side of the wagon, and catching up the pots of plants spun them dextrously through the air to his comrades, who ran after them. Several were caught on the wing, as it were, before the man in the wagon, who was a stalwart fellow,

could catch the *gamin* by the back of the collar. Thus the young rioter was held until the speed of the team could be slackened, when he was gently deposited upon a heap of soft garbage in a gutter, and the horses went on.

Of course such experiments were not worth repeating, and but little missionary work was done in that immediate locality for some time. But such experiences as this are merely the little bitter pill in the big spoonful of strawberry jam, and only serve to prove that it takes all sorts of people to make a world.

A strongly contrasting experience was that of a lady who came in from her country place with a very large bunch of coreopsis in her hands. Shortly after leaving the ferry she noticed that a colored man was following her. As it was early in the day and the streets were full of men coming in to business, she felt no alarm but walked on. A moment later the man was

STOPPING TRAFFIC WITH A BOUQUET.

at her side, and with tears in his eyes begged for a bit of the flower she carried, saying that he had not seen it since he was a little boy. Needless to say that a goodly portion of that bouquet changed hands on the spot. As the lady reached the crossing on the block below she looked back. The man stood as she had left him, evidently lost in memories of the days when he played among the golden coreopsis.

It would seem to a New Yorker that to stop the tide of traffic on West or Washington Street with a bouquet would be impossible; but this was actually done with a bunch of poppies. Into the very heart of the produce dealers' district came a lady with a bouquet, a great mass of glowing scarlet, rose pink, glistening white, and shaded heliotrope poppies. They were of the large, double, eider down sort; every blossom had been selected as a perfect specimen of its kind, and each was as full and round as a good-sized ball. They were set in a calyx of rose geranium stalks and leaves, and made a bouquet as large as a water pail. An old teamster with a rugged, sunburned face was driving a pair of big draft-horses attached to a heavily loaded truck. As he swung the team in toward the curbstone to make way for the street car, his eyes fell upon

the flowers. An involuntary "Oo!" which the horses evidently took for "Whoa!" and an equally involuntary pull at the reins brought the horses to a full stop. The load was heavy, and one wheel slipped into a hole in the pavement; and the entire line of teams for the space of a

invests the lost and the far away. To waken from dreams of youth and find only the ragged, repulsive interior of a tenement, or the bare, snowy, glaring walls of a hospital ward, has been to many a sensitive mind sufficient reason for the relapse or the agitation which has alarmed the nurses and baffled the doctors. In moments such as these, a branch of lilac, a handful of fragrant, glowing roses, a bunch of golden "daffies," some stalks of mignonette, a spray of the long, trailing, starry clematis, like that which used to wander over the old stone wall at the foot of the garden, is better for the patient than all the medicine or surgery

in the world. A mind distressed and distracted with loneliness and homesickness is a handicap which too often drags the patient down in spite of medical science. Especially is this true of country-

bred persons, or those who have a passionate love for flowers or out-of-door life; while even the most indifferent hail "the flower lady" as a welcome visitor, a break in the dull monotony of their days and nights of pain.

Crime and sin are for the moment arrested by these beautiful children of nature, and even a single flower sometimes appears to waken the spark of humanity in the hardest of hearts. A very poor old woman, ignorant and depraved, beaten, battered, and bruised, in body and mind, asked for a certain flower which the visitor had in her basket, as it was the same as those she planted on her baby sister's grave, when she was a tiny bit of a girl and lived in the country. The wretched creature rocked herself back and forth in her chair, hugged the flowers, kissed them, cried over them, and finally went to sleep with the fair petals pressed close to her brown and wrinkled cheek.

A little boy who had been run over, and was to have his leg amputated, was sent to the hospital. He was moaning and sobbing with pain and fear, and refused to be comforted. His tears were dried and he forgot his pain when a

basket of flowers from the mission was brought to him. He played with them until they were withered, and when the operation must be performed he submitted quietly to the bandaging, and inhaled the ether on the assurance that another basket of flowers would be waiting for him as soon as the doctors had finished. His first conscious thought was for the flowers, which were there waiting for him. The attendants and surgeons more than once brushed the tears from their eyes as the poor little fellow, between paroxysms of pain, patted the roses, talked to the leaves, kissed the carnations, and tried to twist his chubby face to make it look like the pansies. The doctors declared that the flowers did him more good than medicine, and during his convalescence fresh blossoms and leaves were sent to him daily.

A girl crippled with spinal disease was to be treated in hope of restoring her health. She suffered such intense pain that she fainted after every treatment, and at last grew so nervous from terror that the physicians feared they could not safely continue it. A missionary came in with some flowers, and she looked so wistfully after them that it was suggested they be promised her if she would willingly submit to treatment and try to get well. She was delighted at the idea; and although she fainted many times she always had her hands full of flowers, or held the roses and "daffies," which she loved best, close to her heart. They really seemed to help her bear the pain; and after, when the tears were actually wrung from her eyes, she put the blossoms to her face and kissed them, although with lips quivering with the agony she was enduring. She almost entirely recovered her health, and went away to live in the country, where she cultivates a little flower mission garden, especially for the benefit of the crippled children in the hospitals.

The faces of old men will brighten at the approach of the flower basket, and many a time have the visitors seen tears fall on the fragrant blossoms. A helpless old man in a hospital ward lay on his cot beckoning with feeble hands to the missionary. She gave him some roses, and a long time afterward the nurse found the dried and withered leaves wrapped in a handkerchief under his pillow. Choice flowers are as en-

thusiastically received by aged and infirm men and women of the poorest classes as by any society belle, and are treasured as long as there is any beauty left in them. Indeed, they would remain indefinitely did not the nurses remove them for health's sake.

The insane and imbecile are often greatly entertained by flowers and green leaves, and fre-

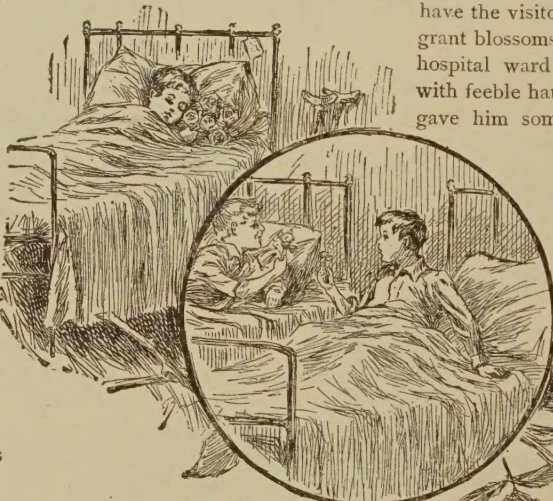


MAKING BOUQUETS.

AT THE FLOWER MISSION ROOMS.

block came to a standstill. After a moment's interested gaze at the flowers the old man started his horses on again; but the pleased look lingered on his face, and the yells and calls of the delayed drivers behind him seemed to make no impression.

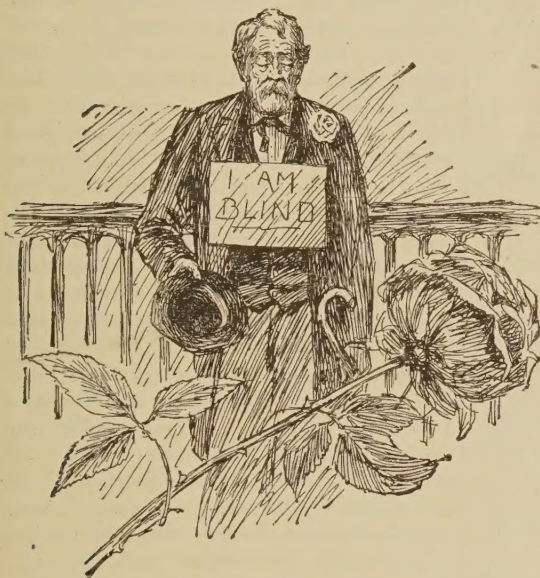
The indoor work of the ladies of the flower mission, although it lacks the excitement of street distribution, is nevertheless wonderfully interesting, and often most pathetic. Through the long days of midsummer, under the burning heat of the sun, with scarcely a breath of air to drive away the close, almost suffocating, odors of the city streets, even the best parts of the town are almost intolerable. What, then, must the torrid and wearisome season be to the dwellers in the tenement house districts, or the sick and maimed in the hospitals, where the best devised system of ventilation seems to result only in accenting the contrast between the immediate surroundings and the well remembered coolness and shade and comfort of some dearly loved bit of country, where blossoms and green fields, health, peace, and plenty seem ever beckoning to the sufferers whose fevered thoughts often carry them back to the days of their childhood! The old farmhouse by the stream is in their thoughts, or the little cottage with its blossoms and vines, which are a thousand times more attractive when clothed with the beauties and graces with which imagination



IN THE HOSPITAL.

quently show a good deal of taste in arranging them. An old lady, who had been in the incurable ward of an insane asylum for fifteen years, came to the regular visitor and asked for some flowers. A small bouquet and some loose pansies were given her. She took them with thanks, and went away so quietly that one could but wonder if, after all, there was anything wrong with her. Some time afterward, the ladies found her in an out-of-the-way corner, the flowers arranged in groups on a chair before which she was sitting in earnest conversation with imaginary guests, who, in her imagination, advanced, retreated, came, went, and conversed with each other and their enthusiastic entertainer, who entered into the spirit of the affair with as much zest as though she were really receiving a grand company, which, indeed, in the realm of fancy, she actually was.

Whether in the prisons, hospitals, sick room, or in the home, there seems to be one universal spirit of love for flowers. They speak a common language, and appeal to all hearts. The



FLOWERS EVEN FOR THE BLIND.

blind are ardent lovers of flowers, but to them only fragrant blossoms are sent. The rose with a long stem is preferred, and mignonette and rose geranium are much liked.

Many country residents plant special gardens for the flower mission. For these the most desirable plants are mignonette, candytuft, phlox, pinks, asters, sweet peas, verbenas, nasturtiums, rose geraniums, the old fashioned "mourning bride," French marigolds, and roses, the latter to be cut when the buds are just opening. Full blown roses are almost useless, and often have to be thrown away as soon as they arrive. Only the very best and freshest flowers are worth sending. These should be packed in boxes or baskets lined with damp paper. Put the flowers in layers, sprinkle them, and lay wet paper between the layers. They should be packed just before shipping, and if done very early in the morning while the dew is yet on, so much the better.

While there are thousands of sick, sad, and sorrowing children and adults in our great cities to whom a few flowers would be such a delight and blessing, it seems almost a sin for us to allow these precious blossoms to remain in our gardens to wither and fade, unseen, and oftentimes uncared for.

N. S. STOWELL.

THE GARDEN SEASON OF 1892.

THE present season has been a very favorable one for gardening in this section of the country. The cold, dry month of April held vegetation in check for a time, only for it to come forward with greater rapidity when the weather became more favorable. Numerous showers, coming as it were in the very time of need, kept everything in a vigorous growth, and as a result our flower beds are masses of blooms, while the vegetable gardens seem to vie with each other in amount of production.

Early spring bulbs were very fine; hyacinths, crocus, tulips and narcissus brightened the gardens for seven weeks. These were immediately succeeded by pansies and roses. The former have done immensely well, while the latter were hardly up to their usual standard of excellence. Gladiolus have been unusually fine, nearly every spike throwing out side shoots, and in size of flowers I never saw their equal. Dahlias came into bloom unusually early, and were very large and of good form; the extremely hot weather in July cut them short, but at this writing, September 3rd, they are in full bloom, and are a gorgeous sight. Lilies have been unusually good this season; beginning with the candidum, followed by longiflorum, auratum, rubrum, roseum, album, Canadense, and others; all the flowers were unusually fine, especially the auratum, which was king of the garden for weeks.

Annuals have done very well, especially stocks, phlox, petunias, sweet peas, marigolds and salvias. Cannas have made a luxuriant growth and their handsome leaves present a tropical appearance which is very attractive. A large bed of ricinus, cannas and salvias is now, and for weeks has been, one of the attractions of my garden; the plants of which it is composed are very fine; ricinus ten feet high in center, cannas six feet high around them, and salvias three feet high around the whole clump.

One of the handsomest things in the garden is the Helianthus multiflorous, which at this time is a mass of bloom, and the beautiful golden color stands forth in a prominence that cannot be equaled.

One of the biggest humbugs sent out by seedsmen the past two years is cleome, or the noted spider flower; it is a coarse plant with unattractive flowers, which droop and wilt through the day and are only presentable early in the morning; if planted at all it should be in an out-of-the-way place and used as a screen or hedge.

In the vegetable garden everything has done well except squashes, melons and cucumbers, these have suffered severely from the grubs at the root. Of the new vegetables tried this season for the first time I find the "Charmer Pea" to be a most excellent variety, medium early, a heavy cropper and first-class on the table, being very sweet and tender. The Golden Nugget sweet corn is also a most excellent sort, and I confess I was agreeably surprised at its richness and excellent quality for table use. Burpee's Bush Lima bean is a great acquisition; while it bears a great number of pods the most of them only yield one and two beans in a pod. The new Black Lima, sent out this season for trial by a Philadelphia firm, is going to be a valuable sort; it is a clean vine and bean, and yields heavily. Tomatoes have yielded remarkably this season; Ponderosa is a wonderful va-

riety, yielding enormous sized fruit; Table Queen cannot be beat for quality; Mikado still holds the lead as the earliest; Matchless is an excellent sort; the Shah is the king of the yellow varieties, and a splendid table and hand eating variety. Potatoes have yielded below the average; celery is severely affected by blight, especially the Giant Paschal, probably the result of the extreme hot weather in July and August.

On the whole the season has been a very pleasant and profitable one, especially to the amateur, who thus gains renewed confidence and looks forward with great anticipation to another season, when he hopes to overcome the failures of the past.

H. C. T.

Wappingers Falls, N. Y.

SWEET PEAS AND MIGNONETTE.

NOW exquisitely sweet peas and mignonette blend together in odor, color and style. Pick a handful, drop them into a small vase or glass, let them arrange themselves, and they will fill a room with their dainty perfume for several days without fading. They are not showy, and therefore are not suited for bedding; yet they are just the hardiest and most easily grown of annuals, blooming early and late without minding a bit of frost.

A few mignonette seeds can be dropped in on the edges of any of the flower beds, and they will care for themselves, modestly making their presence known by the daintiest of odors. Contrary to the general idea, mignonette comes to the greatest perfection in rich ground with a good supply of water in a dry time. Like sweet alyssum, a single plant will spread and make a fine specimen, blooming profusely all the season if but a few branches of seeds are allowed to grow.

Sweet peas look best in rows, do well next to the house or as a background for beds. They are just as easy to grow as garden peas, but to have them bloom early and to perfection requires a little preparation. Just as soon as the ground can be worked, which will be from the first to the last of April in the North, have a trench dug where you wish to plant your sweet peas. Put in a good lot of manure, wood ashes or any fertilizer that is most convenient; cover with a couple inches of soil, and sow the peas quite thick, covering them four or five inches deep. If the seed is soaked in warm water a couple of days they will get a week's start over dry ones. Sprinkle in a few mignonette seeds in front of your row of peas, covering lightly, and possess your soul with patience. For your peas are all safe and growing if they do not appear above ground for a month; the liberal manuring and deep planting being necessary to vigorous growth and prolific bloom. Our sweet peas treated in this way bloomed this season about the 20th of June.

Give support early of brush, strings or wire netting, tying them up as they grow with bits of cloth so the wind will not twist the roots, and water well if you want them in perfection. Cut the flowers of both the mignonette and sweet peas freely every day, the more you cut the better they will bloom; they will die down like garden peas if allowed to form much seed. You can let a few pods from the choicest flowers ripen at a time, but only a few at once if flowers are wanted. It hardly pays to spoil a whole season's bloom for ten cents worth of seed.

After they are planted they require but a small amount of care; just training to a support, some water, and clipping the faded blossoms, while they reward one with the daintiest colors and fragrance, wafting their sweetness through the open windows and blooming after most tender annuals are gone. I have picked quite a bouquet of them as late as the 10th of November.

Maine.

C. H.

UNCONSCIOUS SERVICE.

"The Bee"—she sighed—"that haunts the clover
Has Nature's errand to fulfill:
The bird that skims the azure over,
Bears living seeds within his bill:

"Without a pause his flight pursuing,
He drops them on a barren strand;
And turns, unconscious of the doing,
The waste into a pasture-land.

"I, craving service—willing, choosing
To fling broad-cast some golden grain,—
Can only sit in silent musing,
And weave my litanies of pain."

I, making answer, softly kissed her:
"All Nature's realm of bees and birds,—
What is such ministry, my sister,
Compared with your enchanted words?"

"The seed your weakened hand is sowing,
May ripen to a harvest broad,
Which yet may help, without your knowing,
To fill the granaries of God!"

Margaret J. Prescott, in *October Lippincott's*.

BULBS FOR HOUSE CULTURE.

I FULLY agree with the writers who have expressed their delight in this Magazine, devoting so much space to practical hints and careful details, even if they must seem an "oft told tale." There are yet those who tenderly love flowers who are not acquainted with their culture, and such read eagerly every comment



FREESIA.

upon and description of favorite plants, with the method of treating them, while to many such ignorance would seem impossible, and often the remark is made "why I thought every one knew that." But if everyone knew all which can be said even of our common flowers there would be no need of floral papers. I want here and now to say a word for the small bulbs, which take so little room, cost so little and require so little care. I know many will cling to their abutons, geraniums and fuchsias; of these stand-bys I say nothing, but I want to say to those who have never had Holland bulbs in their windows, please try them once. To such

as have already had them once, any comment is unnecessary.

If you have room and cash to invest in hyacinths you are sure of a delightful harvest for seed sown. They require so little heat that they are easily cared for, and Jack Frost sometimes pinches them with no effect. When one thinks for a moment upon the vast amount of care and expense necessary to procure our bulbs from their distant birthplace, we can but ex-



FRITALLARIA.

claim with wonder at the small price asked for them. We take the goods the gods provide and are grateful without one grumble. For the house try Mimosa or Uncle Tom, Adonia, Norma and La Grandesse or Mont Blanc. Here you will have four colors, black blue, orange, pink and white, at small outlay, while you can add if wished Circe, which is a deep carmine.

Tulips are so impatient of heat that a novice does not succeed very well with their culture. But at five cents apiece the experiment can surely be tried.

Narcissus and Jonquils are rare and lovely for indoor culture, Paper White being the earliest to bloom.

The calla has been a favorite for years and is almost indispensable.

Now a few words for the little bulbs—those which can be planted four or six in a five-inch pot—may not come amiss, such as the Hoop Petticoat narcissus, crocuses, snowdrops, scillas, freesias and zephyranthes. Ixias, chionodoxa,



ZEPHYRANTHES.

and Ornithogalum Arabicum must not be forgotten, but surely anyone can afford some or all of these cheap and lovely companions which whisper so cheerfully of spring's breezes and

summer's lavish beauty; even when winds are howling wildest and February's snow is flying.

I hope that, wherever there may be children, the Chinese lily will not be forgotten in making up the collection. It is of the narcissus family and resembles it, with a sweeter and heavier fragrance. The children, and the invalid of the home, should there be one, will greatly enjoy seeing this plant grow, for one can almost see it spring forward. Cut your bulb half an inch deep if you are not afraid to do so, making it look a little like a pineapple by the incisions you make, then place in deep earthen or glass dish (I used earthen as I had no glass deep enough which had a mouth large enough to swallow the bulb). Then place pebbles or shells around it just to hold it very steady, fill with water and—wait. In three or four days the tiny white roots will start out and also the green shoots. It is a great curiosity and interest to watch this rapid development of root and plant, and when, finally, one bloom after another appears until your bowl is full of beauty and your room filled with perfume, you will agree that you have had your money's worth of the Chinese lily. In renewing the water, which must be kept fresh, take the bowl where you can turn water into it and run the bowl over until the whole is clear and renewed without turning over the bowl or disturbing the bulb. Take my word for it your Chinese lily will afford you much pleasure; yet many deem it expensive because it is seldom known to do well a second time. It can be placed out in the border and will come up sometimes, but very few ever bloom again; still they cost little for the pleasure they give.

I have been, like many of my sister flower lovers, a shut-in for long weary months, and so I know the full value of flowers which grow readily and require little room and care. If you do not care for flowers yourself, a few bulbs sent to some invalid friend will be a sweet token of remembrance and carry a world of pleasure of which you never dream. A. C. S. E.

Indianapolis, Ind.

ROBINS AND FRUIT GROWERS.

THE robin has been a subject of critical observation at the Ohio Experiment Station for two years past, and many of them have been shot and their stomachs examined. They appear to take insect food at those seasons when they cannot get fruit, but prefer fruit diet and when it is to be had they leave the insects untouched. We can only notice the conclusion of the report which says:

So far as numbers are concerned, the robin seems to take more things that are useful to mankind than of those that do us harm. This does not give ground for condemning the robin altogether as some feel like doing, nor does it show him to be so useful as many have thought him to be. The berry grower has much to complain of against the robin, and but very little to thank him for, while those who do not grow fruit have reason to regard the robin quite as much a friend as an enemy. There is no occasion to attempt the extermination of the robin, but there does seem to be good reason for trying to keep it in check, even though sentiment pleads the contrary course."

The robins do great injury in vineyards, picking into the choicest bunches of grapes, disfiguring them and making work for the trimmers

GETTING READY FOR WINTER.

THE days are becoming shorter and the mornings have a cool frosty air. Although there has been no frost, the leaves of the box elder and maples in the yard have become tinged with gold and scarlet, and here and there one is flying down to the ground to herald the coming of the frost king. I am not ready for winter yet. There are two dozen or more geraniums in the border, some full of lovely bloom, and over a dozen that I raised from seed this year, none of them have blossomed, although some are over a foot high. Once I raised a seedling from Master Christine which bloomed in five months from the time the seed ripened, but it is the only time I ever had a geranium bloom the first year from seed.

All of these geraniums I shall take up and pack close together in a box with good sandy soil packed around their roots, water them well and set them under a table I have by the fence with my pots of plants on it, they will get plenty of air and light; when well established I will set them out in the sun with other plants, and they are ready to go down cellar at a moment's notice.

Gladiolus, tigridias and montbretias I will dry well, wrap in paper, and mark, and then put them in a pasteboard box and set it on a shelf in my bedroom wardrobe where there is no danger of freezing.

Last winter I pulled up my tuberose and put them in a pot packed close together with dirt, watered so as to settle it around the roots and put away down cellar. I brought the pot up to the window in March and by the time I could set them in the ground they were well started with plenty of good roots. I think I shall try it again this winter. Summer oxalis I kept in the same way. Dahlia roots do well in sawdust. Cannas do well if lifted with a spade; let all of the soil cling to them that will and just set them in the cellar anywhere they will keep dry. I have seven cannas which I intend to keep in a window and see if they will give me bloom in winter; none of them are budded yet; two are plants I raised from seed of Crozy's cannas; one Flaccida, one Ehemanii, one a red leaved, and two unknown. I am looking forward to a fine show; Amaryllis, Equestra and Regina, will I think give me flowers. The others, Prince of Orange, Johnsonii, Formosissima, and several that I do not know their names, will go into the cellar for a rest; also agapanthus, crimson, fimbriatum, Cooperia all kinds, and zephyranthes all varieties. My geraniums, which are in pots and have been blooming all summer, will go to keep the bulbs company down stairs. I have scant window room, so have to be very partial in my selections.

I have two abutilons, a heliotrope and four smilax, which I raised from a paper of mixed window plant seed; by the way, I am much pleased with the "mixtures" which I find in some catalogues. The wild garden seeds I have planted for several years as I have not much room and there are so many varieties in one paper, each year I find something new. This year I tried the perennial mixture with which I did not have very good success as a heavy rain came up and beat the seeds into the ground; but the "window plant" mixture—well, if I had no other plants they would fill a window by themselves. I have three plants of datura which I shall take up and put in the cel-

lar as an experiment, as they have not bloomed yet.

I was much disappointed in my gladiolus this year. Instructions are to plant them at intervals so as to have them bloom at different times, but this year I had no flowers only on the ones which were planted early.

What am I to do with my water hyacinth? I had a small plant with three leaves sent to me from Florida this summer and I have given away several and I still have two buckets and two jars full. I am going to put one bucket down cellar for an experiment. I am much pleased with the plant, but mine did not bloom. How my pink fairy lilies do multiply—I must have two or three dozen—they would grow all winter but I think it is best for them to have a rest.

I have lifted two dozen late planted ten-weeks stock which show no sign of bud and put them in a box which will be left out of the cellar till the ground freezes, for they will stand lots of cold; they will be ready to bloom early in the spring.

I have a pot of freesias already an inch high. Candidum lily, also Harrisii lily potted; also brodiaea and Triteleia violacea in the cellar making roots. A fine Ornithogalum Arabicum bulb did not bloom last winter so I repotted it this spring and put it down by the fence to take care of itself. The other day I found it with two shoots an inch high.

Hymenocallis occidentale sent up a few leaves but no bloom stalk and then died down; almost hope it will do better this winter.

Hyacinthus candicans gave a magnificent stalk of white waxy bells in August. I think I shall turn it out of the pot into the ground this fall to rest all winter, although I have had bad luck with them in the ground I'll try it again.

My chrysanthemums are most of them lifted into pots and boxes, I think I have thirty kinds. I have put in most pots two or three kinds; I like it better that way when in bloom. They have been pinched back twice, and some of them three times, and now I am thinning the buds. I have left a row in the ground against the south side of the house where they are well protected; they are full of buds but do not look so well as the ones in pots. I shall, when heavy frosts come, set them under a shelf by the fence and hang carpet around the shelf very cold nights, and then, when severe weather comes, move them to a south chamber upstairs. MRS. M. A. B.

New Douglas, Ill.

LANTANA.

I HAVE had such good success raising lantanas I will tell you my way of caring for them. My first lantana was a "Marcella." I purchased it in the fall; it bloomed all winter in the house; then all summer in the border. In the fall it was so lovely it did seem a pity to let Jack Frost have it, and as I had young plants started I did not care for it, but gave it to a flower loving neighbor. If the lantana ever stops blooming I don't know when it is.

I take cuttings in the spring for winter bloom, any time will do. I like good sized and bushy plants to start winter with, so when my plants are in their winter quarters they are ready to bloom. Take cuttings of the new growth and when rooted pot in small pots at first, as these fill with roots shift to larger; by fall the plants should be in six-inch pots. I don't shift again, but when necessary use fertilizer. If the buds

are kept nipped off through the summer a bushy plant will form, and as the flowers come on the new growth there will be plenty of space for them. I use rich soil composed of one-third garden loam, one-third leaf mold, one-sixth sand and one-sixth old and well pulverized cow manure. The lantana wants a moderate supply of water and full sunlight. CATHY M.

Rock Rapids, Iowa.

ROSES FOR IOWA.

A PRACTICAL writer in *Gardening* gives the following list of roses as the hardiest and best for amateurs to plant in Iowa:

Marie Bauman,	Mrs. John Laing,
General Jacqueminot,	Mrs. Chas. Wood,
Marshall P. Wilder,	Paul Neyron,
Baroness Rothschild,	Anna de Diesbach,
Xavier Olibo,	Earl of Dufferin,
Coquette des Alpes,	Rev. J. B. Camm.

The best hardy climber is thought to be Queen of the Prairie. Baltimore Belle and Mrs. Hovey are mentioned as being injured by frost every winter. The writer makes these notes at Davenport, Iowa.

THE FACT

That AYER'S Sarsaparilla CURES OTHERS of Scrofulous Diseases, Eruptions, Boils, Eczema, Liver and Kidney Diseases, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, and Catarrh should be convincing that the same course of treatment WILL CURE YOU. All that has been said of the wonderful cures effected by the use of

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

during the past 50 years, truthfully applies to-day. It is, in every sense, The Superior Medicine. Its curative properties, strength, effect, and flavor are always the same; and for whatever blood diseases AYER'S Sarsaparilla is taken, they yield to this treatment. When you ask for

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

don't be induced to purchase any of the worthless substitutes, which are mostly mixtures of the cheapest ingredients, contain no sarsaparilla, have no uniform standard of appearance, flavor, or effect, are blood-purifiers in name only, and are offered to you because there is more profit in selling them. Take

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists; Price \$1; six bottles, \$5.

Cures others, will cure you

SOME OF THE HYDRANGEAS.

THE several varieties of hydrangea form, taken together, a group of very valuable and useful half hardy plants belonging to the natural order Hydrangeæ. They may be described as being half hardy, deciduous shrubs, growing from two to three feet in height, by as much in breadth, having narrow elliptical leaves narrowed at each end, and producing their showy flowers in terminal cymes or clusters during the summer months, the precise time depending entirely on the manner in which the plants are grown. They are natives of China and Japan; *H. Hortensia* was introduced in 1790 by Sir Joseph Banks, who sent plants of it from China to England.

Within the past few years, however, quite a number of beautiful varieties of *Hydrangea Japonica* have been introduced, and consequently they have become a very popular class of flowering plants for amateur cultivators on account of the ease with which they can be grown as well as for the great beauty and long duration of their inflorescence.

To grow this class of hydrangeas to perfection they should be given a compost consisting of two-thirds well decayed turfy loam, one-third well decayed manure and a fair sprinkling of bone dust; great care must be taken to have their tubs properly drained as the plants require an abundant supply of water at the roots when they are in a state of growth and in order to obtain the best results the plants should never be allowed to become pot bound.

Young plants of all the varieties can be procured at a moderate price of any of our principal florists and these should be planted out as early in May as possible in a very deep well enriched soil, giving them sufficient space in which to properly develop themselves. Early in June a shallow basin about one foot across and an inch in depth should be formed around the plants and filled with coarse littery manure. This will not only keep the roots cool and moist but will be found very convenient whenever water is given, which should be at least once a week, excepting in damp or rainy weather, until the first of September. About the end of October the plants can be taken up carefully and potted, watered thoroughly, and placed in a cool cellar for the winter, where the only care required will consist in giving enough water to prevent them from becoming absolutely dry; or they can be placed in a gentle moist heat at any time during the late winter and early spring months for early blooming. It must be remembered that while the plants are in state of growth an abundant supply of moisture both, overhead and at the roots, is required, and occasional applications of liquid manure at this time is of the greatest benefit.

Propagation is readily effected by cuttings of the half ripened wood and occasionally by a careful division of the older plants; the former method being preferable on account of it producing the most robust and well shaped plants. The following are the most distinct and desirable varieties:

H. Hortensia is the well known and old variety which produces large heads of pink flowers which turn green as they grow old. In some soils the pink flowers become of a deep blue. This change can also be effected by using iron filings, incorporating them thoroughly in the soil when repotting.

H. cyanoclada is a very valuable new variety producing immense clusters of bright rose colored flowers. The new growth of wood and flower stems are of a deep purple color, thus giving it a very distinct and attractive appearance.

H. Empress Eugenie is a grand variety, producing its pale rose colored flowers in immense corymbs.

H. elegantissima is a very fine new hydrangea, the foliage of which is beautifully spotted

and splashed with yellow. The flowers being in all respects similar to those of *H. Hortensia*. Well grown it is a very handsome plant.

H. Otaksa is a variety of robust growth having rich dark green leaves. It is a free blooming plant and produces its flowers in immense trusses, the individual flowers being very large and of a bright pink color.

H. rosea is a beautiful new Japanese variety, a good grower and a free bloomer, producing its flowers in large heads. In color they are a distinct rich rosy red.

H. stellata fimbriata produces its flowers in immense trusses and in the greatest profusion. The individual flowers are of a pure white color with a crimson spot in the center, the base of each petal is also beautifully fringed or notched, giving it a novel and distinct appearance.

H. Thomas Hogg is the best known and most popular of all. It produces its flowers in immense heads. The flowers are of a very fine texture and remain in perfection for a great length of time.

H. stellata rubra plena is another very distinct and beautiful variety, as the individual flowers or bracts are double and similar in appearance to a *Polyantha* rose and in color of a rich rosy red. Owing to their form they remain in perfection for a long time.

Floral Park, N. Y. CHAS. E. PARNELL.

GRAPE GROWING IN ENGLAND.

A REFRESHING item for grape growers is found in the *Journal of Horticulture* of a recent date in an article on "Growing Grapes for Profit," which is a review of Mr. A. F. Barron's book on "Vines and Vine Culture." English gardeners are raising grapes under glass in large quantities for the markets. The possibility of raising the crop at a profit lies in the fact that crops of tomatoes can be taken from the grapery "the first two or three years whilst the vines are getting established."

From the description the industry is assuming large proportions. "The chief producing establishments are to be found within a comparatively easy distance of London, so that the fruit may be delivered by van without the intervention of the railway; the grapes are thus obtained without a blemish in the best possible condition. Several of the vineyards or grape growing establishments are of a leviathan character, whole fields being covered with glass, presenting in some parts of the country a novel feature in the landscape. Every year these are more and more extended." One of the largest growers near London has "over 50 acres covered with glass, about one-half of which is planted with grapes, from which they calculate to produce about 300 tons a year, when the vines come into full bearing—an acre of ground covered with glass being estimated to produce 15 tons of grapes annually." Although the price at which the fruit sells has been declining

annually yet it is not thought that it will fall below two shillings (50 cents) at the lowest. Another great center of grape growing is at Worthing in Sussex, and others at several points in Scotland. "Of grapes grown in the Channel Islands, especially Guernsey, the quantity is simply enormous." The shipments from this source *via* Southampton was, in 1886, over 500 tons, having reached that amount from 50 tons ten years before. No estimate is given of the whole amount annually sent to market of British grown grapes but, evidently, the quantity must be several thousand tons. This is certainly a great showing for fruit raised under glass. The bulk of the crop goes to market in October.

Mr. Barron thinks that a great market for these grapes will open in this country, especially of varieties which ripen late and keep into winter. "During the past two seasons," he says, "regular consignments of English grapes have been sent from this country. They have been found to travel well and to arrive in good condition, and prove of superior quality to American produce during the winter season. They are sent by the Cunard steamers, reaching New York about ten days after being out; some are sold on arrival at New York, whilst others are sent on to Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburgh, Chicago, etc."

The editor says that "it is a little consolation that if home growers of apples cannot beat the American cultivators, we are able to produce grapes of the highest quality, and find a market for them in the States."

We fear our English cousins will never get much consolation from this source, for if they can raise the fruit at a profit and market it here our own cultivators will certainly forestall them. Grape growing under glass met with a severe set-back in this country several years ago when the great improvement commenced in our hardy varieties of grapes, and especially when the Delaware was introduced. Since that time the great extension of the grape industry has lowered the price of the fruit to such an extent that it is used in immense quantities. In making the comparison, as Mr. Barron does, with American produce, the Catawba must be the variety referred to, as that is the only variety of any quantity in our markets in the winter season. If there is any serious and steady demand for exotic grapes at fifty to seventy-five cents a pound when the market is supplied with Catawbas at four cents, then there is nothing surer than that our own grape growers will supply the fruit. With brighter skies and cheaper coal and cheaper land than Great Britain, and freight charges in our favor, the American market for this produce will never be captured by foreigners.

A WORD TO THE WISE.
CERTAIN ADVERTISEMENTS FROM TRADE RIVALS,

who fear the phenomenal success of
Van Houten's Cocoa

in America, contain innuendoes against it, and appeal to the authority of
Dr. SIDNEY RINGER, Professor of Medicine at University College, London. Author of the
Standard "Handbook of Therapeutics."

This eminent physician ACTUALLY writes as follows:—

"From the careful analyses of Professor ATTFIELD and others, I am satisfied that Messrs. VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA is in no way injurious to health, and that it is decidedly more nutritious than other Cocos.—It is certainly "Pure" and highly digestible.

The quotations in certain advertisements from my book on Therapeutics are quite misleading and cannot possibly apply to VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA."

The false reflection on VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA is thus effectually repelled and the very authority cited to injure it, has thereby been prompted to give it a very handsome testimonial.

A NEW ANNUAL.

IN A recent issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* was published an account by one of its correspondents of a South African plant, *Nemesia strumosa*, which has recently found its way into the trade. A portion of the account is here copied, and the engraving herewith has been prepared from one that appeared in the journal mentioned.

This charming plant is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful annuals that has been introduced into cultivation for some years past. It is remarkable that it has not found its way into our gardens long

on both sides, the radical leaves narrowed into a stalk, those on the stem sessile and opposite. The flowers are in compact corymbs, terminating the stem, and its branches lengthening into racemes as the flowers fall away. The bracts, pedicels, calyx, and outside of the corolla, are all glandular-pubescent. Sepals linear oblong, spreading, free nearly to the base. The corolla is from three-fourths to one inch in diameter, two-lipped, the upper lip being four-lobed and glabrous within; the lower lip has a short, broad spur, and a broad transverse front lobe, notched at the apex, hairy within, especially in the throat. The color of the flowers is exceeding variable, being white, ochreous, pale yellow, deep yellow, orange, orange-scarlet, magenta, carmine, light rosy-purple, orange stippled with orange-brown and shaded with mauve, etc., the throat being dotted with blackish on a yellow ground, and the outside is often veined and marked with purple.

This variation in the color of the flowers is one of the most interesting features of the plant, for plants which vary in a wild state to such an extent as this species does, are very few indeed. As this is its first introduction into cultivation, the variation is in this case not a product of the gardener's art, and the dried specimens show that it varies in the same manner in Nature. There are many plants that vary to the extent of two or three colors in a wild state, but it is exceedingly rare to find them indulging in such wholesale variation as this *nemesia* does. I have seen sixteen varieties of color, all of them very brilliant and beautiful, and a bed of them mingled must be a very charming sight; the flowers being large, showy and abundant, it is certain to become a very popular plant. There are many other species of *nemesia*, all of them free flowering, and several that are well worth cultivating; the different species have white, yellow, blue, or purple flowers, but, so far as the dried specimens show, each species has its own color, and does not vary like the present plant. N. E. BROWN.

The editor adds the following note:

The construction of the flower is curious, the corolla, as above described, is tubular, and irregularly two-lipped, the upper lip consisting of four obtuse segments, with two purple spots at the base of each; the lower lip is of a single segment only, but much larger than the other four, at first rolled inward, afterwards unfolded and prolonged at the base into a broad, obtuse, somewhat two-lobed spur, the whole corolla more or less covered with spots and hairs. The

stamens at the base are connate, with the corollatube in pairs, two long, two short, one pair above the other, and in the same vertical plane. The posterior stamen is missing. The two-lobed anthers open just about the level of the purple blotch at the base of the upper lip of the corolla. The young fruit consists of two carpels, placed in the front and back of the flower, compressed from side to side with divergent, falcate tips, between which the short style is placed. Seeds numerous, tubercled and bordered by a deep membranous wing. In two-lipped corollas, the upper lip is usually of two, the lower of three combined petals. The infolded lower lip reminds one of some calceolarias.

The *Journal of Horticulture* of late date notices that the stock of seed was placed in the

hands of a seed grower and has done admirably and produced a full crop of seed. That being the case in England there is no doubt that it can be successfully raised here, and we may expect that this plant will soon form a popular addition to the many attractive plants which constitute the collection of ornamental garden annuals.

BEDDING BEGONIAS.

UNDER this title, in our last number, we expressed an opinion adverse to tuberous begonias for bedding purposes, an opinion founded on the observations of several years past and confirmed by specimens seen the past summer which were obtained from the stock of the so-called hardy strain, sent out with so much noise last spring. In a late number of *Garden and Forest*, Mr. C. L. Allen notes the discouraging appearance of these plants, but endeavors to explain it by the extreme heat and lack of moisture the past season. "The lesson learned is," he says, "that it must be treated as a bedding-plant, and as such must have a good start in the greenhouse, and not transferred to the border until in a thrifty, growing state. The plants should be from four to six inches high, and proportionately strong when set out; then even in a season like the present, they have no rivals." This opinion we regard as altogether too roseate, and we fear it will be a long time before these plants can be bedded successfully away from sheltered and partially shaded situations. We should be pleased to hear from any of our readers living in the prairie regions, or elsewhere, who have grown the tuberous begonias the past season in the open ground, and have their statements of results in so cultivating these plants.

In our March number, page 73, note was made of the trade in tuberous begonias as bedding plants, and their deficiencies for this purpose was stated, and doubt expressed as to this new strain being what was claimed for it. Much as it may be regretted, it may be long before we have a race of bedding tuberous begonias, however, those who have beds in shady places may employ them with pleasing and satisfactory results.

A Powerful
Flesh Maker.

A process that kills the taste of cod-liver oil has done good service—the process that both kills the taste and effects partial digestion has done much more.

Scott's Emulsion stands alone in the field of fat-foods. It is easy of assimilation because partly digested before taken. *Scott's Emulsion checks Consumption and all other wasting diseases.*

Prepared by Scott & Bowno, Chemists, New York. Sold by druggists everywhere.



NEMESIA STRUMOSA, $\frac{2}{3}$ NATURAL SIZE.

before this, for, although it was described over half a century ago, this appears to be the first time it has been cultivated in Europe. Possibly this may be accounted for by its being a local plant, like very many other members of the great South African flora, for it is a native of the southwestern part of Cape Colony, and grows in the neighborhood of Saldanha Bay, and at Doornhoogde; but, to judge from the material in the Kew herbarium, it does not appear to have been met with by any collector since the time of Drege and Zeyher.

Nemesia strumosa is an annual, growing from six inches to two feet in height, the upper part of the stem covered with glandular hairs. The leaves are lanceolate or linear, distantly toothed, and quite glabrous

VICK'S MAGAZINE.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1892.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester as "second-class" matter.

VICK'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers. These rates include postage:

One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (2½ years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

FREE Copies.—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

ADVERTISING RATES.

\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for 6 months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 for 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. One line extra charged for less than five.

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

Average monthly circulation **200,000.**

One Hundred Thousand Dozen.

SPECIAL attention is called to the new and novel premium, the particulars of which can be found on the second page of the cover. Twelve daisy photographs and Vick's Magazine one year, all for 50 cents. We should not offer this if we did not know it was something which would be very acceptable to everybody.

Present readers and subscribers can take advantage of it by sending for one year in advance of the time to which their present subscription ends.

To those who do not care for this, the Rochester Lamp premium on the front cover will surely be very attractive. Double the number of names in this Lamp offer and we will send the photographs to any who wish, as an aid in getting subscribers.

REINSTATED.

AFTER a careful investigation of the methods of the Tanquerri Portrait Co., and the Crescent Crayon Co., in dealing with their customers, we are led to believe that they do exactly as they claim to do, and, therefore, we have decided to once more admit them to our advertising columns. Our readers must, of course, understand that no firm can afford to *absolutely* give away pictures without an object. In most cases this is done as an advertisement of their business, hoping thereby to get orders from other parties. These people suggest also the necessity of a frame to accompany the picture, and as they furnish it at low wholesale price it is the fair thing to buy it—although not a necessity.

A NEW VOLUME.

With this number begins No. 1 of Vol. 16, new series. The change was made one year ago with some questioning as to its advisability, but the results of the year, and compliments from our subscribers, lead us to think it was wise. As in the past we have constantly tried to improve, and in the coming year we shall be always on the alert for the best and brightest.

Everyone who cares to preserve the Magazine in good shape should send for one of our elegant cloth binders, an advertisement of which will be found on another page.

ORCHID, ROSEBUD AND MAIDENHAIR FERN.

THIS charming combination of flowers was sent from the conservatory of the White House, at Washington, one beautiful day last spring, to one of the editors of Vick's Magazine. He was there with the idea of writing about the greenhouses and floral decorations, used in winter and summer. At the same time was desirous of obtaining some few words from Mrs. Harrison to the readers of the Magazine, about her favorite flowers. One week previous she had been taken to the seaside in hopes of improving her health, and her continuous sickness prevented any



further approach or suggestion in that direction. President Harrison's Private Secretary, E. J. Halford, however gave the entree to the greenhouses, and the flowers as shown above are a part of the result. They are practically words of kindness and love from one beloved by all—one who has been called a typical American woman, and whose career in the White House has been admired for the dignity, tact and diplomacy shown.

President Harrison in his affliction has the sympathy of everyone regardless of party, creed or nationality.

BUTTER MAKERS BEWARE!

ASO-CALLED "Proceedings of the South Australia Dairymen's Association" of Melbourne, Australia, has been put in circulation giving an account of a committee of said society in regard to butter making, recounting the trials of thirty days work and announcing the result of obtaining much more than twice as much butter by the employment of a small quantity of "black pepsin" in the cream as from the same amount of cream in the usual way. This black pepsin is said to be a new preparation and samples of it can be obtained of the Concord Chemical Co., of New York, by sending 38 cents to pay postage. The circular is accompanied by a letter to the editor of this Magazine, signed by J. O. Ross, as secretary of the South Australian Dairymen's Association.

After careful inquiry we have failed to find any such company in New York, and are satisfied that the whole affair is an ingeniously de-

vised swindle, the only object being to get the scheme advertised so that butter makers may send 38 cents to the Concord Chemical Company with a request for a sample of "black pepsin."

For fear that some one may be deceived and give the circular publication as a bona fide document, we take this means of putting the public on their guard.

HOW'S THIS!

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

A NATIONAL FLOWER.

FOR some reason that no one has appeared to understand, a certain Mr. T. T. Swinburne has been very active in putting before the community his preference of the columbine for a national emblem—or so-called national flower. A paper on the subject was presented at the late meeting in this city of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The next move was to go before the Chamber of Commerce here and urge the influence of that body with the authorities of the Columbian Exposition to get them to recognize the columbine as the emblem of the Exposition. Then the Posts of the G. A. R. were visited and asked to have the matter considered at the great gathering of the Grand Army at Washington and an indorsement by the whole body of the desirability of this flower as a national emblem. Apparently there was some great interest at stake to back up all this protracted effort, but no one could surmise what it could be. Some thought that a party was interested in the matter in order to make sales of a stock of plants or seeds of columbine, and yet this seemed hardly possible; however, it was evident there was some financial project back of the movement which gave it strength, and time would reveal it, as, perhaps, it has now done in part, for circulars are now being sent out setting forth the merits of the flower and with it a copyrighted stamp of columbine flowers on a sheet of note paper. The stamp bears the name National Flower and is evidently intended to be used on note and letter paper, envelopes, circulars and otherwise, the privilege to use it being paid for. Without passing an opinion on the financial value of the scheme we will consider briefly some of the statements of the projector on the merits of this flower for the place claimed for it. It is set forth that "for architectural and artistic purposes, and intrinsic beauty and sentiment, no flower of this or any other land can compare with the columbine." Now, anyone with the slightest art taste knows that this statement is not true. Where have all our painters been during the centuries, that they have never employed this flower when it has so great "intrinsic" beauty. By-the-by, what kind of beauty would a flower have which was not intrinsic? Then we are told that "it grows in red, white and blue, our national colors." Well, this is nothing very strange, so has the verberna the same colors, and so has the phlox, and this last is strictly an American plant, which the columbine is not, although we are told that "it is indigenous to the North American Continent." It is a native of this country, but it is also native of other countries of the world. But there is no white wild columbine in this country, and the reddish one, *Canadensis*, is a mixture of yellowish red and orange. Again it is said that the columbine is a "hardy perennial and wild flower that is found in every part of our land, growing even upon the Rocky Mountains in the very heart of the country." It is true that the plant has a wide range, but it is so scarce and its season of blooming is so short that it would unquestionably be safe to say that not one person in five hundred has ever seen it, and not one in a thousand knows anything about it. Mr. Swinburne says that it is an exact copy of the Phrygian liberty cap, the head-dress of Columbia; this is pure imagination, as anyone knows who is acquainted with the flower.

He says the common name, columbine, comes from the same root as Columbia. This is true, and it is the accident of this name of the plant and its botanical name which is the whole significance of the selection of it as a national flower, and this is the thinnest kind of sentiment. Its botanical name, *aquilegia*, is because the spurs of the flowers suggest a bird's claws, and as the eagle is a national emblem this flower, which has spurs, it is thought ought, therefore, to be the national flower, but many other flowers have spurs, though it may not have occurred to Mr. Swinburne.

Now, as to the peculiar properties of this plant, their general nature may be considered. It belongs to the *ranunculus* family, many of the members of which have acrid and narcotic juices and some of them are most violent poisons. Loudon, in the *Cyclopedia of Plants*, says of the columbine "the whole plant has been recommended to be used medicinally, but it belongs to a suspicious natural order;" and then adds that "Linnaeus affirms that children have lost their lives by it."

To make this plant the national emblem would tend to bring it prominently into cultivation, and so make it plentiful and apt to be clutched by little hands, and an object once in an infant's hands it is, as we all know, carried directly to the mouth.

To sum up the unfitness of the columbine for a national flower it may be said:

- 1st. The plant in its wild state is comparatively scarce.
- 2d. Its season of bloom is exceedingly brief, being but a few days, or a fortnight at most.
- 3d. It is a plant not well known.
- 4th. Though cultivated to some extent for a long time, it has never become a general favorite.
- 5th. It will only bloom the second year after planting, whether raised directly from seed or from roots transplanted.
- 6th. It is not peculiarly an American plant.
- 7th. It is possibly dangerous in the hands of children.

This matter of a national flower we had dismissed from our pages, having given it some time since sufficient attention, and knowing, too, that national emblems are not to be foisted upon a people by the preferences of individuals and sentimental effusions. When we have a national flower it will be one which time and associations have endeared and made conspicuous. What that will be cannot now be foretold, but it does not need a close observer to perceive that from June to November no wild flower is so frequently gathered and employed for personal adornment or used as a vase flower as the goldenrod. Children flaunt it, maidens wear it with the aster as a corsage ornament, or otherwise, and gentlemen employ it for the buttonhole. It is connected with the pleasant memories of our most pleasant seasons, our recreation days, and probably for all time it will be the best known wild flower of this continent.

CULTIVATING THE CRINUM.

HOW many of your readers have grown this beautiful flower? For several years I have read about it and seen it catalogued in the *Floral Guides*, but not till last year did I think I could afford to buy one. Seeing a collection of three leading varieties advertised quite cheap by a Philadelphia firm I invested,

and received the bulbs in good shape and carefully planted them out. What was the result? After several weeks of careful watching one began to make a top growth, but very few roots; another made plenty of top growth, but winter came and no bloom; the third rotted and came to naught. Winter came and I put the crinums with the *amaryllis* in the cellar. In the spring "*Ornatum*" had rotted in the center and had to be thrown away. "*Americanum*" was good and sound, with plenty of roots, and soon started into a vigorous growth and gave me a very handsome cluster of pearly white flowers of the most curious form I ever saw; it would be hard to describe the form, but I will say they were trumpet form only in length, otherwise they were octagon form. Truly, anybody who wants to grow a rare novelty should grow *Crinum Americanum*. Well, as "*Ornatum*," or "*Kirkii*," as some catalogues call it, disappointed me so much last season, and being so pleased with my success with "*Americanum*," I resolved to have another, so this season I sent for one to a firm in Florida which makes a specialty of these plants, and I received in return a monster bulb the shape of a large dinner bell, weighing about four pounds. I carefully potted it, but after careful nursing for several weeks I got tired of it, and other work pressing me, I took the pot containing it out into the garden in a partially shaded place and plunged it, proposing it should take care of itself. For two weeks I gave it no more thought, when one day, by chance, I happened to notice it; it had begun a vigorous top growth; I examined it and found the pot well filled with roots and I began nursing again, and in three weeks' time I was rewarded with a spike containing a large bud of a blood red color. It continued to grow until it was two feet high, when it burst and threw out eleven large buds; in another week they began to open and the flowers were trumpet shaped, about five inches long, of a pure white color with a crimson band through each petal, and of a delicate fragrance; thus the plant bloomed for three weeks, during which time many friends came to see it; and the unanimous opinion was that it was a beauty. While it has not had any blooms since, it has made a luxuriant top growth and at this time stands two feet high and in form of a huge rosette. It is needless to say that I am pleased with my success, and next season I shall expect great things from these two beautiful floral gems. After *Americanum* bloomed I planted it out in the garden; while the old bulb has not increased in size it has multiplied like an onion, and this week when I took it up I potted seven bulbs as an offspring of the original parent bulb.

The *crinum* is closely allied to the *amaryllis* family; ordinary *amaryllis* culture I think will do for the *crinum*; but the bulbs will not stand as much cold in the winter, consequently want wintering in a warmer place. Kind reader, if you want two rare novelties another season, plant the *crinum* and persevere till you succeed and you will be fully repaid for your trouble.

Wappingers Falls, N. Y.

H. C. T.

GARDENING.—A new horticultural journal called *Gardening* makes its appearance at Chicago, with Wm. Falconer as editor. It is published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Gardening Company. The first number gives promise that it may be an instructive and useful publication.



OUR LETTER BOX.

In this department we will be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Primroses and Cinerarias.

JAMES VICK:—I am interested in raising primroses and cinerarias, but I find they need different care from other plants. Can some successful grower give me the benefit of his experience? E. A. B.
Plainfield, Ohio.

Mildew on Pansies.

JAMES VICK:—Will someone please tell me the cause and cure of the mildew on the pansy plants? Those on the north side of the house are affected more than those on the east side of the house. E. C.

Caladium esculentum.

JAMES VICK:—I saw in your September Magazine where the question had been asked if caladiums bloomed. I have one with three blooms on it now; they are shaped something like the calla, and are yellow. I like your Magazine and look anxiously for it every month; I get a great many ideas from it, although your climate is so different from ours. Marianna, Fla. Mrs. J. S. G.

Water Hyacinth.

JAMES VICK:—Will you please tell me something of the habit of the water hyacinth? Can I winter it in the cellar? When is its season of bloom? How old must it be before it blossoms? C. E. T.
Orleans, N. Y.

The plant can be kept in a basin or tub of water in the window in winter. It blooms in spring. Young plants bloom.

A Tall Hollyhock.

A flower of single yellow hollyhock was received in a letter from Mrs. J. B., Fernbaugh, N. Y., which the writer informs us "was picked from a plant that came up last year, and is today (Sept. 15th) fourteen feet and one inch high, and has borne hundreds of blossoms, and is still growing." Is not this the tallest hollyhock plant on record?

Gladiolus in Winter.

JAMES VICK:—My gladiolus bulbs have failed to keep through the winter. Can you explain why? Montpelier, Vt. G. W. S.

It would probably be quite possible to say why the bulbs did not keep through the winter if it was known how they were kept. There is no difficulty in keeping gladiolus corms during the cold season if they are placed in drawers or on shelves in a dry, moderately cool room, or one in which the frost is kept out. If they are kept in a damp cellar they may mold or in a room with a high temperature they may dry up.

Dodder on Begonia.

JAMES VICK:—The piece of stem with leaves enclosed is taken from a begonia; the vine adhering to it starts directly from the stem two inches from the soil in the pot, and is in no contact with it whatever; the vine has no leaves and is running all over the plant, which is about a foot high; the begonia is a year old and has not suffered any yet, and the stem looks healthy, but just a little thick where the vine starts. This appears to me very remarkable and I wish you to explain it in the Magazine. B. W.
Stanwood, Wash.

It is a case of dodder growing on the plant. The dodder no doubt started from seed in the soil of the pot and grew in that way until it be-

came attached to the begonia, when that part of its stem below the attachment died; it now lives as a true parasite, obtaining its nourishment from the begonia, and eventually, if allowed to remain, will destroy its host. The remedy is to cut away all that part of the plant bearing the parasite.

Tuberose—Cape Jasmine.

JAMES VICK:—Will you please tell me what to do with a tuberose this winter? I have it in a large box and it is now blooming beautifully. I have no pit to keep my flowers in; will they keep in a dry cellar? Will a Cape Jasmine, if protected, live out doors during the winter? I have one which I bought of you last spring and I fear I do not understand how to treat it. I placed it on the east side of the house and gave it plenty of water, but it doesn't seem to be thrifty. Please tell me the cause. I enjoy "Our Letter Box" so much. Mrs. A. H. R.

Nettle Carrier, Tenn.

Tuberose bulbs which have once bloomed are worthless; as a rule they bloom but once.

Probably the Cape Jasmine is not sufficiently hardy in Tennessee to winter over well, even with such protection as may save the life of the plant. It would be better to take it up and keep it in a greenhouse or pit, watering it but sparingly during the season. Further south, in Florida and the other Gulf States, this plant is hardy, and is a great favorite. It needs an open, sunny exposure and a good enriched soil.

Is the Gladiolus Hardy?

JAMES VICK:—Is the gladiolus hardy? In the spring of 1891 I noticed, in a bed where gladiolus had been grown the previous summer, that some were coming up, which must have been from bulbets left in the ground when taking the bulbs up the previous autumn. They must have survived the winter in the ground out of doors. Acting on the hint, last autumn I planted about a dozen good strong bulbs, placing them about five or six inches below the surface of the soil, and covering the surface with litter of straw and leaves. This spring they came up strong and vigorous and apparently none the worse for their having spent the winter out in the cold. To all appearance they stood the winter as well as the hyacinths that grew in the next bed. This may be no news to you but it was a surprise to me, for I had always been led to understand that in this region (Southwestern Ontario) the gladiolus was tender and would not stand the winter. Is the gladiolus hardy? An answer in the "Letter Box" will oblige
Dresden, Ont. REV. W. J. F.

Our inquirer has answered his own question. Evidently the gladiolus is sufficiently hardy to stand the winter protected in the manner described. But as not one person in fifty will take the trouble to give the necessary protection the only practical resource is to take up the corms in the fall. Another reason for doing so is to take the new bulbs which have grown and dispose of them as may be desired in the succeeding planting. In some of the Southern States the gladiolus will survive without protection.

Wintering Roses and Feverfew.

JAMES VICK:—What shall I do with my rose bushes this winter? I have lost so many in winter during the last three years, I have thought I would move them all to the cellar. Would I be likely to lose more by disturbing them than leaving them in the open ground? What are the dangers to be guarded against to insure safe wintering and a safe resetting in spring? Am now referring to the Hybrid Perpetuals.

Is the feverfew a tender plant, and does that want to go to the house or cellar? U. F.

Orwell, N. Y.

The hybrid perpetual roses can be safely wintered in Oswego county of this State in the open ground by carefully protecting the plants. It is best to keep the roses as dwarfs in all cold climates, that is, every spring cut back the old wood within six to twelve inches of the ground. Such plants can have the soil drawn up to them,

in a mound or cone shape, a foot or fifteen inches high and then over all can be placed a covering of leaves and this can be kept in place by branches and sticks laid over. Branches of evergreens are among the best protectors from frost. This work can be done late in the fall before the ground freezes up for winter. To take up the plants and winter them in the cellar would prevent their ever becoming well established and giving their best results.

The feverfew, *Pyrethrum parthenium*, is a plant almost hardy in the same locality, and with a covering of leaves may be kept over.

Rose Buds not Opening—Dahlias.

JAMES VICK:—I have a La France rose which, though apparently healthy and producing numbers of promising buds, never has strength to push them open. They remain in the bud form till they dry up, grow soft and finally decay. This has been the case for three years. Can you tell me the cause and the remedy?

Also, can you tell me why single dahlias are so uncertain in their bloom, both as to quantity and quality of flowers? Mine bought of you last May are very large sturdy plants but have very few flowers, and most of those very imperfect—only three or four petals developing on one side—the rest mere failures. Williamstown, Mass. MRS. W. H. D.

We should give the rose bush a good dressing of old stable manure this fall, laying on a coating about three inches thick for a distance of four feet all around the plant; let it lie on the surface of the ground and in the spring fork it in. In spring prune the plant back sharp, or within a foot of the ground and when the buds set on the new growth take off a third of them. We do not think the trouble will be noticed with this treatment. Follow up the manuring every fall and the pruning every spring.

Dahlias sometimes fail to develop well, in the manner described, but the number of plants that do so in a collection usually form but a small proportion of them. Plants in very vigorous growth sometimes show this defect, and especially in the first blooms while later they open more perfectly. It may have proved so in this case.

Pruning Rose Bushes.

JAMES VICK:—We have some fifty or more rose bushes of many different kinds, some of them grow up four to six feet high. We are at a loss to know how to trim them; no books in our library give the proper instructions. It seems to me they ought to be trimmed down to a much lower stature. Our Vick's Caprice has grown to be immense. I would be pleased to hear from you through the November Magazine or otherwise, as you please. G. R. G.
Cincinnati, O.

These bushes have probably been left to grow without pruning and are now in poor shape, the flowers they produce being mostly at the top of the plants, while below the plants are barren. The fact to be borne in mind in pruning is that the flowers are produced on the branches that grow the same season, and that these branches start from wood which was made the year before. It is desirable that the plants should be kept lower as the flowers will then be seen to better advantage, and the number and size of the flowers can better be regulated by careful attention to pruning. In the present case what to do will depend upon the condition of the individual plants. Some of them may have a number of strong shoots that have grown the past summer, starting low down; if this is the case then a number of these canes can be selected, say from four to six if there are so many, and these can be cut within eighteen inches of the ground, and then all the rest of the plant cut away. But, if there are no new shoots which

have started low down, then cut the tops from the old ones so as to leave them about eighteen inches high, and afterwards cut the side branches so as to leave only two buds on each, and perhaps remove some of the branches altogether, as all depends on the strength of the plant—if it is very strong plenty of buds can be allowed to remain, but if weaker it must be cut closer. The next year prune again, aiming to leave only some new wood for blooming. Early spring is the best time for pruning. Roses should be pruned every spring with the object of leaving only strong young wood for blooming. The art of pruning roses can only be acquired by practice.

The Hollyhock.

JAMES VICK:—In reply to the inquiry of I. N. D., there are three ways of propagating the hollyhock—by seed, by division of the roots, and by cuttings. The seed from a perfectly double and approved variety may be depended upon to produce a similar double inflorescence, provided that no single flowers are within five hundred yards of the parent plant; there may be some variation in color if there be flowers of different colors in the vicinity. Thus, it is possible that the progeny may be a better color than the original. The capsule of seed produced at the base of the flower should be removed as soon as the seed shows the first disposition to ripen and be placed in a warm sunny situation until the seed is perfectly dry. If the seed from the earliest flower be selected it will be fit to sow about the middle of August, and for this purpose shallow boxes may be used. The plants will be fit for removal, if they have been carefully attended, about the latter part of September; then plant them, say, four feet apart, in deep soil highly fertilized with well rotted manure. For protection surround each plant with a palisade a foot and a half square of short, thin stakes. When the ground is frozen an inch deep, place a handful of straw or leaves inside the palisades and over the plants—not more than a handful—too much covering is fatal. Of the plants so treated fifty per cent. will bloom the following July, and many of the remainder as late as September.

A still more satisfactory method of propagation is by division of the roots, not later than the middle of September. By this method one is absolutely certain of the perpetuation of the chosen strain, and of bloom in perfection the next summer. Each root should have two offsets or shoots on it, and these should be treated in a similar way to that suggested above for seedling plants. If planted in September they will be established before growth ceases in the autumn.

If I. N. D. will send me his address I will send him some seeds of double yellow plants which were nine feet high with me this season.

R. O'HARA.

Chatham, Ontario.

Lily of the Valley—Roses—Feverfew.

JAMES VICK:—What ailed my lily of the valley? I got them in January and potted and treated them according to directions. All but two started nicely, but never showed a bud, and all died before spring. A friend had the same experience with hers, and sent about the same time. Neither of us had ever grown any before.

How shall I treat my Caprice and Baltimore Belle roses this winter? As they were said to be hardy I left them without special protection and they killed down within a few inches of the ground but bloomed very profusely from what old wood was left. The Caprice dropped its last bloom today, September 26; it has hardly been without bloom all summer.

Why don't you recommend feverfew to your customers? I have one which has been blooming constantly since the first of June and now, September 26, it is sending up new clusters of buds. It has had an average of fifty perfect flowers at once for nearly four months.

Burr, Nebraska.

E. P. R.

The lily of the valley is a very easy plant to raise and the directions which we give for it are correct and sufficient. If one fails with it the cause must be sought and remedied, and if not successful the first time it should be tried again and until one learns how to care for the plants.

The term hardy applied to roses does not mean that they are hardy as oak or pine trees;

it is a comparative term. Roses which will bear the winter uninjured in some parts of the country may be frozen to the ground or even killed in other places. In Nebraska, as in all the Western States, roses should be well banked up with soil and then their tops bent down and covered with dead leaves or evergreen boughs, the covering to remain on until spring. After removing the covering in the spring, cut back the last year's growth.

We do recommend the feverfew and think it a very desirable hardy perennial.

Keeping Geraniums in Winter.

JAMES VICK:—Please tell me how to keep geraniums through the winter for spring bedding. I put a nice lot of roots in the cellar in a box of dirt last fall, and in the spring I got one plant out of the lot.

Dutton, Mich.

MRS. D. McQUEEN.

In its natural state the geranium is a plant which is never wholly at rest; it is, however, very amenable to treatment in cultivation, and very patient with bad usage. We should say that the proper treatment for bedded plants intended for another season's planting would be to take them up carefully and pot them or plant them in boxes and stand them in a light place in a temperature secure from frost and yet not high enough to excite active growth. Under these conditions a very little water would be sufficient during the cold season. When the weather becomes milder in the spring and the plants start to grow, care for them properly, regulate the growth and disposition of the branches and thus prepare them for planting at the proper season. But one may not have the facilities to care for the plants in this manner and yet want to preserve them. A damp cellar is not a suitable place and may cause them to mold and decay. The plants when taken up can be placed in boxes, most of the foliage can be removed, the soil be made only a little damp; then place the boxes or box in a dry frost-proof cellar where there will be some light. The leaves will soon all fall. By the first of March it will be best to place the boxes containing the plants in the window of a moderately warm room and give water and start the plants into growth. Some leave the plants in the cellar until the weather is warm enough to plant them out, but they are then in a very enfeebled state and it takes a long time for them to recover.

Plums in Partial Shade.

JAMES VICK:—When I was a child we had some plum trees on the south side of the house that always bloomed beautifully every spring, but we children rarely ever feasted on a ripe plum, for the curculio destroyed all the young fruit. After a time mother had the trees moved to the northwest side of the house where it made an angle with the ell, and in the shade till noon. The reason they were moved was they were in the way; she had no idea they would bear any better, for the curculio reigned triumphant everywhere in town. For years all the household slops, during the fall, winter and early spring, was thrown around the trees in their new quarters, and soon they began to bear and ripen their fruit, without the sign of a curculio or any insect pest. For some twelve years they have borne every year, one year a heavy crop, the next a lighter one. This year is the off year for bearing, but nearly every branch is drooping with plums as thick as huckleberries on a bush. I have for some years picked up and burned the imperfect fruit, but there is scarcely ever more than a pint dipper full, before the ripe plums fall. In early spring the orioles, sparrows and yellow birds make those trees their favorite hunting ground; and one of the village druggist's bees swarm them during the blooming season, which may account partly for their fruitfulness and freedom from insects. But as the curculio is not by any means exterminated in all parts of our town, I have concluded that the northern situ-

ation and partial shade were the prime factors for the difference in the plum trees bearing. Plums being so hardy in the extreme North, they would no doubt be more generally grown were they not so uncertain a crop because of the hateful little curculio. And if a northern exposure and forenoon shade will stop its ravages the fact should be passed round. C. H.

The shade in which these plum trees stand no doubt saves them from the curculios, for the insects prefer to frequent the trees in the sun. This case reminds us of an instance which came under our observation some years since. A lady living in the suburbs of the city had some fine plum trees but could get no perfect fruit. After many trials to baffle the insects she hung sheets over the tops of the trees, and every day turned a fine spray of water several times on the trees, using a fine rose on a garden hose. The fruit was successfully saved from the curculio and the trees bore profusely. Insects of all kinds flourish in heat and a dry atmosphere; moisture and coolness are not agreeable to them.

Lawn—Palms—Cyperus.

JAMES VICK:—You are so kind as to aid us in our dilemmas that I am emboldened to come to you. Then, too, your kind replies not only are helpful to the one asking, but to others also; for instance, I was anxious to know how to make amaryllis bloom and I find the answer already given to another in your last issue. Your department of queries and replies is, to my mind, one of your best features.

Last spring I had my lawn all dug up and sodded and it looked lovely, but this spring I supposed it needed fertilizing and I had some manure spread over it that was several years old. The result was that the grass was destroyed by dandelions, chick weed, etc. I have tried to dig out the weeds but it cannot be done. What shall I do? I cannot afford to have it resodded. Shall I have it all dug up and sow grass seed or will the weeds die out during the winter, and can I simply scatter seed? What kind of seed would you recommend?

What is the best treatment for palms, such as *Barbonica* and *Wedelliana*, a dry or damp soil? The leaves turn yellow on mine.

How can I increase *Cyperus alternifolius*?

Poyntell, Pa.

It is hard to say what is best to do with the lawn. The dandelions will not die out; there is no plant in a lawn more persistent than that. There seem to be four alternatives in this case; first, leave the lawn as it is and endure the dandelions, but this is objected; second, dig out the plants, and this seems to be considered too laborious; third, dig over the whole lawn and keep it hoed—summer fallowed—all summer, thus allowing all seeds in the ground to germinate and destroying them, and then sowing with clean seed the last of August; fourth, take a conservative course, cut off every yellow head as soon as a sign of color shows and allow not a single dandelion to go to seed, and dig out as many as can be done conveniently through the summer; follow up this course three or four years and probably the lawn will then be cleaned.

The pots of the palms probably are lacking in drainage—though this may not have been the case originally yet the roots by their growth may have crowded the pots so full as to make a compact mass. If this is the case, shifting into larger pots and providing ample drainage will be the remedy. Palms can make use of considerable water, but they will not endure a sodden soil.

Cyperus alternifolius is propagated by cuttings of the stems or culms, using the upper extremities of them, at the same time shortening back the leaves; these are rooted in water kept at a temperature of eighty or ninety degrees. Clumps of roots can also be divided and thus increased.

AN ASTER DISEASE.

LAST spring I wrote the Magazine with reference to a blight on asters that I had encountered in Connecticut, and that was making the same havoc here, and asking for information as to its cure. It has spoiled fully one-half the plants here, and consists of an arrest in the growth of the flower, which changes to a sickly green color, and stops at about one-half size. Acting upon your advice I had a sufferer write the Agricultural Department, Division of Pathology. In reply they wrote it had not been studied there, but was being investigated at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station by Dr. Wm. C. Sturgis. As this matter touches a great many raisers of asters, particularly those who have been manuring highly, I enclose Dr. Sturgis' reply.

NEW HAVEN, CT., Sept. 4, 1892.
MRS. F. A. MARSH, LITCHFIELD.
Dear Madam:—The aster disease which you mention is probably the same as that which I have been studying the last month from all sections of the State. The results of my investigations will be published in our next Report in January. It can probably be controlled by liberal applications of lime to the beds in the early winter and following summer, and by avoiding stable or barnyard manure.
Very truly yours, W. C. STURGIS.
HOWARD E. GATES,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

CANNA MRS. F. ROGERS.—A new seedling canna called Mrs. F. Rogers is said to be much superior to Madame Crozy, of which it is a seedling and of similar habit. The petals of the flower have a golden band all around on the edge a quarter of an inch wide instead of the narrow yellow edge of the parent variety. It received a silver medal at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's exhibition in Boston in September.

THE LINE OF LAKES.

The above name has been applied to the Wisconsin Central Lines on account of the large number of lakes and summer resorts tributary to its lines. Among some of the well-known summer resorts are Fox Lake, Ill., Lake Villa, Ill., Waukesha, Mukwonago, Cedar Lake, Neenah, Waupaca, Fifeield, Butternut and Ashland, Wis. These lakes abound in numerous species of fish, such as black bass, rock bass, pickerel, pike, perch, muskallonge, while sportsmen will find an abundance of game, such as ducks, geese, quail, snipe, etc. In the grandeur of her scenery, the charming beauty of her rustic landscapes and the rare perfection of her summer climate, the State of Wisconsin is acknowledged to be without a peer in the Union. Her fame as a refreshing retreat for the overheated, careworn inhabitants of the great cities during the midsummer months, has extended southward as far as the Gulf of Mexico and eastward to the Atlantic.
Pamphlets giving valuable information can be obtained free upon application to Geo. R. FITCH, G. E. A., Wis. Cen. Lines, New York, N. Y., or JAS. C. POND, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Chicago, Ill.

HAVE YOU ASTHMA?

Dr. R. Schiffmann, St. Paul, Minn., will mail a trial package of Schiffmann's Asthma Cure to any sufferer who sends his address and names this paper. Never fails to give instant relief in worst cases, insures comfortable sleep and cures where others fail.

A NEW IDEA.

The CASH BUYERS' UNION, of Chicago, Ill., will ship first-class Sewing Machines anywhere, to any one of Vick's readers, and in any quantity at the lowest wholesale prices, and give the privilege of **10 Days' Free Trial** in your own home. Any of our readers who may be interested in Sewing Machines, should write to them at once for their special Sewing Machine Catalogue No. 101, mentioning Vick's Magazine. It will be sent free to any address.

FRUIT AS A FOOD.—Very excellent authority says: "It is a fact that such fruit as the apple, the pear and the plum, taken when ripe without sugar, diminish the acidity of the stomach, rather than provoke it. The vegetable sauce and juices are converted into alkaline carbonates, which tend to correct acidity. A good ripe apple (raw) is one of the easiest of vegetable substances for the stomach to deal with, the whole process of digestion being complete in eighty-five minutes." In the French hospitals an apple poultice is applied to inflamed eyes. It is probable that such fruits taken as food also serve as allayers of inflammation in the stomach and other alimentary organs. This is peculiarly true of cranberries and grapes.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Maude: "She is a woman who has suffered a great deal for her beliefs." Ethel: "Dear me! What are her beliefs?" Maude: "She believes that she can wear a No. 3 shoe on a No. 6 foot and a 23-inch corset on a 30-inch waist."
A man had a donkey for sale, and, hearing that a friend wanted to buy one, he sent him the following, written on a postal card: "Dear D.— If you are looking for an AI donkey, don't forget me. Yours, etc., F.—"*London Tid-Bit.*

IMPORTANT TO FLESHY PEOPLE.

We have noticed a page article in the Boston Globe on reducing weight at a very small expense. It will pay our readers to send two cent stamp for a copy to Stillings Circulating Library, 36 E. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

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The flowers have been a source of great pleasure during the summer. The bed of portulaca held its supreme hours from 10 o'clock till 4 p. m., brilliant as cactus bloom, but near the shades of evening they were transformed so near like rose buds that one would think they were lost from the parent stem and fell asleep upon a bed of moss. We improved the effect of our petunia bed by tying the center one to a stake after they commenced to bloom, then winding cord from the center around outside plants to the center again until they all held so firmly by the interlaced cord that they did not part and leave wide openings to the ground but were a shapely mound of mottled flowers rising two feet or more in center and descending gradually to the radiant line of color resting upon the grass—the support was soon hidden by the rapid growth. The seeds have, as usual, brought forth exquisite bloom. Before Jack Frost's advanced guard had left his footprints upon our tender plants the lawn was giving new beauties every day. Each morning to my chamber came the perfume of flowers—sweet as answered prayer. The bright coleus and beds of double geraniums from shaded leaves of green and brown lifted their brilliant heads on vigorous stems to meet the morning, and the pansies in the little plot turn their dew-washed faces to the bright warm sun to dry, the Jacqueminots are in their last bloom, and, how lovely they are!

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CARNATIONS, IN WINTER.—A Chestnut Hill correspondent suggests that the care of carnations in the house during the winter, would make a good paragraph. He has found them troublesome. Possibly of many kinds of plants the carnation is the least fitted to be a room plant. Few things are so sensitive in regard to an abundance of light. Even florists who have carnation houses find a great difference between plants grown in old houses where the laps in the glass by age make a slight difference in the amount of light, and those grown in bright clear houses. The brightest and best of the houses are always chosen for carnations. Outside of the lack of light there is no other trouble more than falls to any other plant.—*Meehans' Monthly for October.*

AN ENCHANTED ROSE GARDEN.—A Paris correspondent thus describes a magnificent rose garden in gay Paris: "The Baroness de Rothschild's rose garden at Ferrieres is one of the

most beautiful in the world. This is a year favorable to roses, and the garden is now a fairy-like loveliness. It is surrounded by trellis work completely covered with climbing roses of every hue and of every sort. The space is laid out in arcades, bowers, alleys, great bushes and into plantations and beds, where every variety of the queen of flowers flourishes. The perfume is intoxicating in the evening, and the nightingales have found out this enchanted Vale of Cashmere in the environs of Paris."

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE.—The *Century* Magazine will take up the Bible and Science controversy. In the November *Century*, Professor Charles W. Shields, of Princeton, answers the question "Does the Bible contain Scientific Errors?" with an emphatic *no*. He says: "Literary and textual obscurities there may be

upon the surface of Holy Writ, like spots upon the sun, or rather like moles in the eye; but scientific error in its divine purport would be the sun itself extinguished at noon. Such a Bible could not live in this epoch."

Professor Shield's article will be followed by one in the December *Century* on "The Effect of Scientific Study upon Religious Beliefs."

Lady: "And how is your master getting on, gardener, with the part of your territory he has undertaken to keep in order?" Gardener: "Well, ma'am, I can't say 'ow 'e's done much mischief as yet."—*Pick-Me-Up.*

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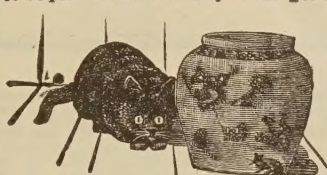
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ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM is helping my wife wonderfully. She has been troubled for several years with Constipation, and was so bad that she had to take pills two and three times a week, right along, but finds no use for them now. I am taking the medicine for the same trouble, and it is helping me very much. CHESTER DANIELS, Berlin Heights, Erie Co., Ohio.

Although I have taken only one box of ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM it has helped me more than all the medicine I ever took. MRS. ALEXANDER ATEN, Paris, Washington Co., Va.

When Mrs. Aten ordered her medicine she wrote us as follows: "I had Neuralgia last Winter and have never been well since. Nothing seems to help me, and I thought I would try ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM, as I would like to feel well again. I am so sore through my breast and shoulders that I can hardly get my breath at times. I feel all the diseases at times that any one ever had, and am afraid I will never be any better."

June 17th, 1892, Mr. JACOB H. CORSEN wrote us as follows: "I have been suffering with a terrible pain in my head for several years. The pain is so great as to confine me to my bed for

days at a time. I have tried several kinds of medicine, and the doctors here do me no good. I have to use opium to get any relief at all. Send a box of ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM at once."

July 9th, 1892, Mr. JACOB H. CORSEN writes as follows: "I received the medicine you sent me, and can say now that it has done me more genuine good than anything else I ever tried. My wife is taking it also, as her health has been failing; and she says she feels fifty per cent better since using ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM. Send another box at once. JACOB H. CORSEN, Canton, Lewis Co., Missouri."

MARCH 23d, 1892. Gentlemen: Enclosed is \$1.00. Send me a box of ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM. Please give this order your immediate attention, as I am an intense sufferer from Indigestion. R. C. NUNNELLY, McKinney, Lincoln Co., Kentucky.

MAY 21st, 1892. ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM cured me of Indigestion. R. C. NUNNELLY, McKinney, Lincoln Co., Kentucky.

I have been ailing for a number of years with my stomach and back, and my husband has paid out large sums of money to get something to help me. My stomach was in a terrible condition. ROOT, BARK AND BLOSSOM has done wonders for me. I eat everything now, and enjoy my food and feel perfectly well. MRS. MATTIE WEBSTER, Meservey, Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa.

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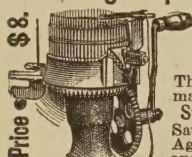
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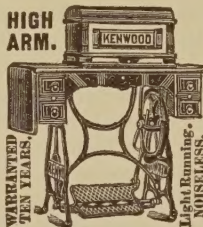
ROSE SAW FLIES.—Insect Life, issued from the Division of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has entered upon its fifth volume, number 1 of which contains, among other matters, an illustrated article by C. V. Riley on three saw flies injurious to cultivated roses in the United States. All these are amenable to the usual saw-fly remedy, viz., spraying with a mixture of powdered hellebore in water. A wash sufficiently strong for the destruction of the larvæ may be made by mixing two ounces of hellebore with two or three gallons of water. Hand-picking, particularly of the earliest brood of these insects, will serve to check the later broods.

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